

needed to carry out this directive. I also encourage the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to continue working with the EAC on electronic absentee voting by absent uniformed service and overseas voters casting ballots abroad and others areas where they may have expertise.

The second provision will expand the use of the federal write-in absentee ballot to absent uniformed service voters that have not received voting materials from their state within the deadline prescribed by their state. This will give the absent uniformed service voter the opportunity to participate in the democratic process that they are defending.

Mr. Speaker, I support the inclusion of these provisions in the Conference Report.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4200, the FY 2005 Department of Defense Authorization Conference Report. I commend our Chairman and Ranking Member and all of the conferees for their leadership and hard work.

This is an important bill for troubling times. As I have said often, thank God we live in a nation, which gives us the right to agree with a decision to go to war, the right to disagree with that decision, even the right to remain silent. But no one has any right at all to forget the courageous men and women who answered the call when summoned, who sacrificed by serving.

What is our obligation to them, Mr. Speaker? It is to make them a priority in our hearts as well as our budgets.

We also have an obligation to give them all the tools and resources they need. Not just hardware, but software. Not just situational awareness that tells them where an enemy is and what the enemy's firepower is, but the cultural awareness that tells our troops who the enemy is and what its will power is.

That is why I am especially proud that the conference report included two amendments that I offered.

While the brilliant speed with which our forces toppled the Taliban and the regime of Saddam Hussein demonstrates the unrivaled technological and professional superiority of our military, the current situation on the ground would seem to suggest that we haven't given enough attention to the "full spectrum" of operations that they will face.

My amendment will look at how U.S. military's education and training program is preparing soldiers to meet the challenges of an era when our enemy is just as likely to be a tribal warlord as a trained infantryman and how we deal with the battlefield after the battle.

A second amendment, Mr. Speaker, formally recognizes the courageous actions of Army Specialist Joseph Darby, who was brave enough to notify his superiors about the abuses at Abu Grayb when no one else was. He is a true American hero.

These are truly dangerous times. We are involved in a struggle that we cannot lose. On behalf of our men and women in uniform and all they are doing to keep America safe, I strongly support passage of this conference report.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4200, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2005." I am pleased that Congress was able to complete work on this important bill prior to recess. As an outside Conferee to H.R. 4200, I am particularly sup-

portive of the education provisions in the bill before us today.

There are a number of provisions in H.R. 4200 that will help local schools better serve students in military families. For example, we ensure that school districts can continue to count federally-connected students who reside on the military base as on-base students for the purposes of calculating Impact Aid payments in cases when federally-connected students temporarily move off-base to live with a relative or family friend and when both of their military parents are deployed for active duty. The provision will also ensure that school districts continue to count federally-connected students who reside on-base as on-base students for the purpose of calculating Impact Aid payments for six months after the death of a military parent.

In addition, we have increased the amount of aid local schools will receive that are impacted by the presence of military installations, as well to increase funding to help school districts provide special education services to certain dependent children with severe disabilities.

Finally, with respect to the education provisions, we were able to establish the National Security Education Program to provide resources for scholarships, fellowships, and institutional grants in higher education. The program's mission is to lead in the development of the national capacity to educate U.S. citizens, understand foreign cultures, strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness, and enhance international cooperation and security. In our ever growing world economy, I believe these provisions are imperative to ensure that U.S. citizens have a solid understanding of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress recognizes the sacrifices and contributions our courageous soldiers have made in the war against terrorism. Hopefully, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2005" will go far in supporting our military efforts and protecting the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report on H.R. 4200.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DIRECTING THE CLERK TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4200, RONALD W. REAGAN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 514) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 4200, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 514

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4200) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: in section 714(b), strike "Section 1974g(a)(2)(E)(i)" and insert "Section 1074g(a)(2)(E)(i)".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 832 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 832

*Resolved,* That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of October 8, 2004, providing for consideration of disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4837) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Committee on Rules met and passed this